

Status of the Claims

42. (Original) Method of mounting a plurality of spring contact elements to terminals of an electronic component, comprising:

fabricating a plurality of spring contact elements upon a sacrificial substrate;
subsequently, while the spring contact elements are resident on the sacrificial substrate, mounting the spring contact elements to terminals of an electronic component; and
after the spring contact elements are mounted to the terminals of the electronic component, removing the sacrificial substrate.

43. (Original) Method, according to claim 42 wherein:
the electronic component is a space transformer.

48. (Previously Amended) A method of mounting a plurality of spring contact elements to an electronic component, comprising:

providing a plurality of elongate spring contact elements, each having a base end, a contact end, and a central body portion therebetween; and
mounting the base ends of the spring contact elements to corresponding terminals on the electronic component, the contact ends of the spring contact elements extending about the surface of the electronic component and the body portion being spaced from the electronic component.

49. (Original) Method, according to claim 48, wherein:
the electronic component is a space transformer of a probe card assembly.

50. (Original) Method, according to claim 48, wherein:
the electronic component is a semiconductor.

54. (Previously Added) Method of making comprising steps of:
fabricating a contact element on a sacrificial substrate;
mounting said contact element to an electronic component; and
releasing said contact element from said sacrificial substrate.

55. (Previously Added) The method of claim 54, wherein said electronic component comprises a terminal, and said step of mounting comprises attaching said contact element to said terminal.

56. (Previously Added) The method of claim 54, wherein said electronic component comprises a stud, and said step of mounting comprises attaching said contact element to said stud.

57. (Previously Added) The method of claim 54, wherein said step of fabricating comprises:

forming a masking layer on said sacrificial substrate; and
depositing contact element material in an opening in said masking layer.

58. (Previously Added) The method of claim 54, wherein said step of fabricating comprises:

forming a trench in said sacrificial substrate, said trench defining a contour of said contact element.

59. (Previously Added) The method of claim 58, wherein said step of forming a trench further comprises:

forming a plurality of said trenches configured such that said contour is multilevel.

60. (Previously Added) The method of claim 59, wherein said multilevel contour comprises a first level and a second level, said first level defining a body portion of said contact element, and said second level defining a contact portion of said contact element.

61. (Previously Added) The method of claim 59, wherein said step of forming a trench further comprises forming a depression in one of said trenches, said depression defining a tip feature of said contact element.

62. (Previously Added) The method of claim 54, wherein said contact element comprises a base portion and a contact portion, and wherein said step of mounting comprises attaching said base portion to said electronic component.

63. (Previously Added) The method of claim 62, wherein said contact element further comprises a body portion disposed between said base portion and said contact portion such that said contact portion is spaced away from said electronic component after said base portion is attached to said electronic component.

64. (Previously Added) The method of claim 54, wherein said step of mounting is performed prior to said step of releasing.

65. (Previously Added) The method of claim 54, wherein:
said step of fabricating further comprises fabricating a plurality of said contact elements on said sacrificial substrate;
said step of mounting further comprises mounting said plurality of contact elements on said electronic component; and
said step of releasing further comprises releasing said plurality of contact elements from said sacrificial substrate.

66. (Previously Added) The method of claim 65, wherein said step of fabricating a plurality of said contact elements comprises forming a plurality of trenches in said sacrificial substrate, said plurality of trenches defining contours of said contact elements.

67. (Previously Added) The method of claim 66, wherein said plurality of trenches are configured such that said contours are multilevel.

68. (Previously Added) The method of claim 67, wherein each said multilevel contour comprises a first level and a second level, said first level defining a body portion of one of said contact elements, and said second level defining a contact portion of said one of said contact elements.